

SERMON SERIES

January-February 2019

Theme: Starting Point

Everything has a beginning. Every person, every idea, every journey starts somewhere. Whether it's one small step in a new direction or a major event, from that point forward nothing is ever the same. It's not always comfortable. It's not always easy. But it's a start.

SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY

The starting point for faith is not a Bible Story. It's not even the Bible. It's a question: "Who is this Jesus?" Jesus came to remove the mystery, to make what was previously unknown, known. Jesus came to bring light to a dark world. What difference does that make for us? (John 12:46)

SUNDAY 20TH JANUARY

Jesus is the starting point of restoration. He came to bridge the gap created by our sin and He's ready to forgive our sin and restore God's relationship with us. What do we need to do on our end? (Luke 15:11-32)

SUNDAY 27TH JANUARY

Three faith traditions claim the same starting point: Abraham. When God reached out to him, He asked for his trust. In return for Abraham's faith, God credited him with righteousness and cleared a path for personal relationship. In what way does He make the same offer to each of us? (Genesis 15:6)

SUNDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

Many people think that following rules is the starting point of a relationship with God and the way to make God happy. But with God, rules are not a condition for relationship with Him, they are confirmation of that relationship. So, when it comes to our relationship with God, what is the role of rules? (John 1:12)

SUNDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

We all have things in our pasts that haunt us, and guilt is powerful. It only takes a word, a picture, or a name to bring it all back. We know we can do better from this point forward, but how are we supposed to fix the past? (Colossians 2:13-14)

SUNDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

At some point in our faith journey, we will settle into a bargaining posture with God. "God, if you will . . . , I promise I will . . ." We all do it. But is that really how God wants us to relate to him? (John 3:16)

SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

When we think about Jesus, do we tend to focus on his teachings or his death and resurrection? How does that focus influence the way we answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" (Act 17:31)

SERMON SERIES

March 2019

Theme: Right in the eye

"It's my life. I should be free to do what I want, when I want, with whom I want . . . as long as I'm not hurting anybody." This is what we tell ourselves. But what if it's not true?

SUNDAY 3RD MARCH

None of us wants a "king" until doing what we want lands us in a place where we can't do what we want. How might our life be different if our standard of behaviour changed from doing what we want as long as it doesn't hurt anyone to doing what we want as long as it helps someone? (Judges 21:25)

SUNDAY 10TH MARCH

We don't want "kings" in our lives, whether those kings are parents, bosses, the government . . . or God. We want to do what's right in our own eyes, but in our attempts to do what we want, when we want, with whom we want, we end up serving "little kings." How are we to deal with little kings like appetite, lust, fear, comparison, insecurity, generational dysfunction, addiction, loneliness, or greed? (Joshua 24:14)

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH

We think we want to be like everybody else. But being like everybody else just makes us average—worried, in debt, bored, and dissatisfied with what we have. If we knew that living like everybody else on the outside would leave you feeling like this on the inside, we would have done what we suspected was right in our heart instead of doing what was right in our own eyes. How can we change that today? (Psalm 119:35-37)

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH

Chances are our greatest regret can be traced back to a decision where our mind wanted something that our heart knew was wrong. We saw something or someone we wanted . . . even though he, she, or it wasn't healthy for us. But we yielded to the little kings that want to replace the Creator King who calls us to live from the inside out. What do we do when our mind wants what our heart knows is wrong? (Judges 16:4-21)

SUNDAY 31ST MARCH

We can spend our life doing what we want, when we want, with whom we want like everybody else. But if we do, we'll never become the best version of us. We will never be extraordinary. A relationship with God isn't about staying out of trouble. It's about being extraordinary. What causes us to hold God's plans for us life at arm's length? (Judges 6:11-16)